

## RECREATION FEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Moab Land-Based

#### Description

The Moab Land Based Program manages commercial, competitive and organized group use of the public lands in the Moab Field Office (commercial river use is managed by the Colorado River program, described in the report on UT02). Land-based Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) provide services to visitors from throughout the world. The Moab Field Office administers approximately 197 land-based special recreation permits. The land based permittees consist of approximately 135 commercial outfitters, 15 competitive event organizers and 47 organized group events. Land-based Special Recreation permit holders provide recreation services to approximately 62,000 visitors per year. The Moab SRP program is the largest issuer of SRPs of any field office in the BLM. (The El Centro, California Field Office is second with 137 SRPs).

Land-based Special Recreation Permit holders in the Moab Field Office offer a wide variety of outfitter services, including, but not limited to, guided jeep tours, guided biking tours, hunting services, guided hiking services, guided photography tours, outdoor education tours, horseback riding, shuttle services, ballooning trips, guided motorcycle and ATV tours and guided climbing services. Organized events include running races, endurance horse rides, vehicle-based club tours, and unicycle events. Competitive events include both running and bike racing events.

Operation of the Moab Land Based program could not be accomplished without funding from the UT08 fee account. The account pays all administrative costs of the program, all SRP monitoring costs, including salary, all vehicle and equipment costs, and most of site improvement costs.

#### Fee Schedule

Land-based SRP user fees are collected at the conclusion of the calendar year (or 30 days after the last use on Moab public lands). Fees are set for SRP holders by national policy. Commercial use fees are 3% of gross; organized group and competitive event fees are \$5.00 per person per day. In addition, assigned site fees may be charged. Permittees are billed for their use on public lands after they submit their post-use report for the calendar year.

#### Accomplishments

In addition to permit administration expenditures, the Moab Field Office maintains infrastructure that supports special recreation permit holders. For instance, 49 trailheads have been provided to service guided trips. Approximately 15 of these trailheads have toilet facilities which are maintained by the BLM. Other services provided include maintenance of travel plan signing as well as maintenance of hiking, bicycle and

motorcycle trails. The BLM also provides interpretive sites throughout the field office that are utilized by special recreation permit holders.

Annual operating costs for the Special Recreation Permit program include expenditures for permit administration, permit monitoring, law enforcement services, trailhead maintenance and cleaning, vault toilet pumping, trail maintenance and marking, and trash disposal. Up to nine permanent employees provide services to the land-based Special Recreation Permit program: two recreation employees are involved with permit administration, three are involved with permit monitoring and trail marking, two law enforcement officers provide compliance checks, and two maintenance workers ensure the cleanliness and safety of the facilities. These maintenance duties include repair and cleaning of the trailhead toilets, trash collection, and maintenance and repair of routes, trails and other recreational infrastructure. The labor expended by each employee is partially supported by UT08 funds.

### **Visitor Services, Interpretation**

Many of the SRP holders take clients on motorized or mountain bike trips. Throughout the office, signs and kiosks are provided to help people stay on the designated routes. In 2009, signing and fencing material to operationalize the 2008 Moab Travel Plan was purchased using UT08 funds. Interpretive signing was also improved in 2009.



**Vehicle Barrier in Red Wash**



**Signing for Visitor Assistance**

### **Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement**

Toilet walkways were added to assist persons with disabilities to access toilets. Several new bike trails were added to the designated bike system, including the Magnificent Seven trail and trails in the Klondike Bluffs Mountain Bike Focus Area. A new parking lot at the Bar M Mountain Bike Focus Area was constructed. This lot is used for both general outfitter parking and as a venue to host large bicycle-oriented organized group events. A toilet was also installed at the Cameo Cliffs OHV parking lot.

## **Law Enforcement – Public Use and Recreation**

Law enforcement officers regularly monitor Special Recreation Permit holders.

## **Agreements**

Trail Mix, the Grand County Non-motorized Trail Committee, entered into an agreement with Moab BLM. The group received funds from the UT08 account to maintain and build new bike trails.

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